

**Dominican Republic School Sponsorship Project
Contract No. 517-C-00-02-00115-00**

Quarterly Report: September 5 – December 31, 2002

**Submitted by:
DevTech Systems, Inc.**

**Submitted to:
USAID/Dominican Republic**



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Contract 517-C-00-02-00115-00
CTO: Neici Zeller, USAID/Dominican Republic

ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUND:

On September 5, 2002 USAID/Dominican Republic awarded a contract to DevTech Systems, Inc. to “facilitate the creation of public-private partnerships for educational improvement through a model of school sponsorship in those geographic areas where demonstrated private sector interest will support such an endeavor.”

This quarterly report covers the initial period of the contract from contract award through December 31, 2002.

Contract Modifications:

Modification Number 1: On September 17, 2002 an administration modification was made to the contract to insert accounting and appropriations data.

Modification Number 2: On November 6, 2002 an administrative modification was made to the contract to provide incremental funding.

ACTIVITIES AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

During the week of September 9, 2002 the COP and Dr. Jorge Sanguinety met with the CTO, Neici Zeller, during the HCD/LAC conference in Honduras to do initial project planning. The COP arrived in the Dominican Republic September 24 to begin mobilization activities and organize the project office in Santo Domingo. Office space, equipment, furnishings, etc. were leased or acquired. Project support staff were hired. The COP went to the United States for medical clearance and returned to the Dominican Republic October 27. The office officially opened October 28, 2002. A subcontract with the local company ARTIS for media assistance was developed, approved by USAID contracts office, and executed on October 31. On November 11, 2002 the COP accompanied Mr. Randy of USAID’s Global Development Alliance, the Mission Director, and the CTO on a visit to multiple schools sponsored by the Falconbridge Foundation. The CTO and the COP also visited Timberland offices in Santiago and visited schools being sponsored by that company. On November 26 the CTO came to DevTech offices to meet with Ivelisse Jose Jorge, President of Artis, DevTech’s major subcontract.

A. Activities toward deliverables:

1. General and specific support for the school sponsorship program

October 10, 2002 the COP made a presentation regarding the project to the Board of Directors of EDUCA. That same day the COP made a similar presentation to members

of the American Chamber of Commerce. This presentation generated the interest of Citibank in the school sponsorship program. A follow-up meeting with Citibank resulted in an official proposal to the Citibank Board to join the project.

Courtesy calls to the directors of the principal newspapers were made to present the background on the project to solicit their support. One article was published in *El Listín Diario*.

The COP made individual personal visits to executives of firms (Grupo Popular, Leon Jiménez, Central Romana, CODETEL, Tricom, and Banco ADEMI) to present the project and solicit their participation.

Promotional materials were designed that included a brochure and the story board for a video.

2. Assistance to the Ministry of Education

A courtesy visit was made to the Secretary of Education on December 5. This meeting led directly to a working meeting on December 10 to identify actions necessary to implement the project in conjunction with the Secretary of Education.

3. Technical assistance to participating private sector organizations

No activity to report.

4. Technical guidance to sponsored schools

A series of meetings have been held with the Executive Director and staff of the Falconbridge Foundation to discuss options for adapting the Falconbridge model of school intervention for use by the project.

5. Implementation of the Civic Education component of the General Law of Education

No activity to report. This deliverable may be modified pending the implementation of a separate Civic Education project by the Ministry of Education.

Performance Monitoring and Impact Evaluation

The project monitoring system is in place. The impact evaluation aspect will be implemented once the appropriate task order is issued to the BEPS contractor and work begins with sponsored schools.

B. Significant Accomplishments:

Each of the firms visited has expressed interest and support for sponsoring schools. There is no need to explain the importance of improving education to these business leaders. It will be

necessary to wait until the next quarter to see if they are willing to convert their verbal support into action.

C. Other:

No other activities to report.

MAJOR PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN:

It became apparent after the appearance of the first article about the project that the Public Affairs Office would have to review and clear any articles prior to their appearing in the media. This required an adjustment in the media plan to reflect prior review by the office. It also required changing the plan from interviews with the press to hiring writers to have items placed in the press with prior PAO review.

Some activities and events originally scheduled for January and February have been postponed pending receipt of incremental funding.

CHANGES TO THE ANNUAL WORK PLAN:

See the attached Gantt chart for adjustments to the annual work plan.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITY FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER:

1. General and specific support for the school sponsorship program

In mid- to late January, follow-up meetings will be held with the firms to which presentation were made in December. The goal will be to secure at least three sponsors to begin working with schools by April 1, 2003.

A series of small events will be planned and implemented rather than one large event to launch the project publicly.

The media campaign will focus on securing the placement of articles about school sponsorship in the major newspapers. The articles will be written by the project and vetted by USAID before placement.

2. Assistance to the Ministry of Education

Follow-up to the December 10 meeting with the Ministry will require working with the liaison identified by the Ministry.

3. Technical assistance to participating private sector organizations

Meet with the Director General of Internal Taxes to identify the policies and procedures that affect the legitimate tax deductions available to business that sponsor schools.
Conduct an analysis of the current law and procedures to identify possible improvements.

4. Technical guidance to sponsored schools

No activity anticipated.

5. Implementation of the Civic Education component of the General Law of Education

No activity anticipated.

Performance Monitoring and Impact Evaluation

DevTech will coordinate and cooperate with the BEPS contractor once work is initiated on their task order.

The Gantt chart that follows (contained in a separate Microsoft project file) visually presents project activities implemented over time. The yellow bars represent the baseline for task implementation as originally presented in the work plan. The blue solid bars present actual implementation of tasks during the project and blue shaded bars present planned implementation.





